

Bruno KALNIN

file, bio

15 June 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: CSP

SUBJECT: Copy of a letter from Kalnins to [ ] dated 16 May 1951, on the Latvian Labor Organizations-in-exile.

1. Attached hereto is subject report transmitted to us by the office of the ID/P, where it was recently received from [ ]

[ ] Acting Chief  
Psychological Staff Division

Attachment  
Subject Letter

HGL/MEV/nmc

Distribution

Addressee - orig.  
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SECRET  
SECRET

May 16, 1951

Dear Friend:

As the representative of the Latvian Labor Organizations-in-exile, I want to call your attention to the discrimination of the Latvian workers that newly occurred in the NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR A FREE EUROPE in New York. This American organisation has instituted a Latvian Panel, which will take care of the anti-Communist propaganda with the means of the American committee in the Russia-occupied Latvia. This panel has been made up completely anti-democratically and unrepresentatively. There is no Labor representative of its seven members. All these seven members are politicians of the Right-wing and some of them are even known as men of anti-democratic opinion. For instance, A. Bersins was the minister of propaganda in Ulmanis government of national dictatorship (1934-1940) who is well-known from this time to every Latvian as a destroyer of democracy. He and his dictatorship established also the first concentration camp in Latvia were several thousands of Latvian Labor officials were imprisoned.

If the National Committee for a Free Europe entrusts the radio propaganda for the occupied Latvia in the hands of such persons, it should not have any success. Democracy cannot be propagated by men who annihilated it in their time. It will be easy now for the Communists in Latvia to compromise the propaganda of the NCFE, pointing out that at the head of it are men of Ulmanis's dictatorship. The Latvian people want get free from the Communist despotism but it does not want instead of it to renew a national dictatorship. The Latvians in their occupied native country struggle for a real freedom and democracy.

Several times, I have written to the NCFE and pointed out the incorrectness and the harmfulness of its position which operates prejudicially against democracy and the good name of the United States in occupied Latvia. I have also proposed to admit Mr. Voldemārs A. Krasulītis (75 Bromley Street, Boston 30, Mass.) the only one authorized Latvian Labor representative in the U.S.A., into the Latvian Panel of the NCFE. Unfortunately, these well-meant proposals have been rejected and Mr. Frederic R. Dolbear, vice-president of the NCFE, the other day announced to me that they have made up the Latvian Panel in a way previously decided. This means in a prejudiced manner and for a democratic propaganda in Latvia injurious coalition.

As far as I know, the NCFE had done it on the proposal of the existing reactionary Latvian organisations and the Latvian diplomatic representative, Mr. J. Feldmanis. These are just the circles which up to the date glorify the old national dictatorship of Latvia and which combat all Latvian democratic parties in exile. Mr. Feldmanis is a supporter of Ulmanis dictatorship and therefore it is clear about that he has proposed to make up the Latvian Panel in the main of these autocratic-minded men and has expelled the Latvian Labor representatives. If the National Committee for a Free Europe will follow his advice in Latvian internal affairs, then it will get a false and for democracy bad information. It would be the same if somebody in the USA wanted to get information about Spanish affairs at Franco's ministry in Washington.

In such conditions, I approach you as to a representative of the USA's labor with request to help us in this matter which is very essential for Latvian democracy and the Latvian labor. Please do not allow that the American propaganda for the occupied Latvia comes in the hands of reactionary and national dictatorship-minded men! I ask you to take energetic measures at the NCFE in order to force them to change the coalition of the Latvian Panel and that the Latvian labor representative, Mr. Krasulītis should be taken up there.

At the same time we ask you to support Mr. Kramlitis and maintain contact with him in Latvian affairs.

I notice that I apply to you with the recommendation of Mr. Irving Brown and Mr. Oliver Arthur Peterson, the Labor Attaché at the American Embassy at Stockholm. I am the former chairman of the Free Latvian Trade Unions Central Bureau, the member of the Latvian parliament and the member of the International Center of Free Trade Unions in exile which is situated in Paris. I am also "The New Leader" correspondent in Stockholm.

I should be very grateful if you would send me some of your publications for the sake of information, especially your periodical International Free Trade Union News and Slave Labor in Russia.

At the same time, I would like to offer some article about the conditions of workers in the Soviet occupied Latvia for publication in your periodical.

I am hoping for your friendly support and waiting for a soon reply.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Bruno Kalnins  
Stockholm, Sweden